IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1-20 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A local network in a vehicle with several subscribers distributed over the vehicle, which form data sources and data sinks and which are connected with one another by a data line to transmit audio, video and control data, such that the audio, video, and control data are transmitted in a format which prescribes a clocked sequence of individual bit groups of the same length, in which certain bit positions are provided respectively for the audio, video, and control data, and the bit positions for the audio or video data respectively are collected together in several connected component bit groups, and the data assigned to these component bit groups are assigned by transmitted control signals to a certain data source or data sink, at least one data source being present for audio and video data and at least one data sink being present for the audio and video data transmitted over the data line, where~~in~~ the at least one data source comprises:

a data source for compressed audio and video data including,

a demultiplexer to separate the compressed audio and compressed video data contained in one compressed signal~~;~~,

a bit stream decoder to decode the compressed audio data~~;~~,

an audio buffer for intermediately storing the separated audio data~~;~~,

a bit rate converter to recode the compressed video data~~;~~,

a video buffer for intermediately storing the separated video data~~;~~,

a bus interface that inserts the ~~delayed,~~ decoded audio data and the ~~delayed,~~ recoded video data ~~from the data source~~ into the~~ir~~ corresponding ~~intended~~ component bit groups~~;~~; and

a control unit that is connected to the audio buffer and the video buffer, and which specifies and controls the adjustable intermediate storage time of the audio and video buffers.

2. (Currently Amended) The local network of claim 1, where~~in~~

the data source for compressed audio and video data comprises ~~is~~ a data source for other compressed data, where~~in~~ the demultiplexer separates the other compressed data from the compressed audio data and the compressed video data, and where~~in~~ the data source further comprises,

a second bit rate converter for recoding the other~~,~~ compressed data, and

a data buffer for ~~the~~ intermediately storingage ~~of~~ the separated other data, and where~~in~~ the bus interface ~~is configured to~~ inserts the ~~delayed,~~ decoded audio data, the ~~delayed,~~ recoded video data, and the ~~delayed,~~ recoded other data into the corresponding ~~ir intended~~ component bit groups.

3. (Currently Amended) The local network of claim 1, where~~in~~ ~~the~~ at least one of the audio and video buffers is situated before the bus interface.

4. (Currently Amended) The local network of claim 1~~2~~, where~~in~~ ~~the~~ at least one of the audio and video buffers is operationally interposed between the demultiplexer and the bit stream decoder and the ~~or~~ bit rate converter associated with ~~it~~ the audio and video buffers.

5. (Currently Amended) The local network of claim 12, further comprising ~~wherein~~ analytical units ~~are~~ associated with the bit stream decoder and the bit rate converters, where the analytical units ~~which~~ determine a~~the~~ time relation of the compressed video data with respect to the compressed audio data, and where the analytical units ~~which~~ are connected to the control unit to specify the intermediate storage times of the audio, video and other buffers.

6. (Currently Amended) The local network of claim 12, where~~in~~ the control unit controls the bit stream decoder and the bit rate converters to synchronize the time relation between the decoded audio data, the recoded video data and the recoded other data~~, such that the time differences due to different processing times in the data source can be reduced in the displayed signals~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The local network of claim 1, where~~in~~ the data line comprises ~~is~~ an optical data line.

8. (Currently Amended) The local network of claim 12, where~~in~~ the bit rate converter that recodes ~~for~~ the compressed video data is connected to the control unit, and where the control unit controls the bit rate converter for the compressed video data to control ~~can be controlled over this connecting line in such a way that the extent~~ an amount of data reduction during a~~the~~ bit rate conversion process performed by the bit rate converter ~~and thus the processing time needed for this can be adjusted~~ in dependence on one of the resolution and~~/or~~ the size of a~~the~~ display in the associated data sink for video data.

9. (Currently Amended) The local network of claim 1~~2~~, where~~in~~ the bit stream decoder decodes the compressed audio data by convertings the compressed audio signal into a PCM audio signal.

10. (Currently Amended) The local network of claim 1, where~~in~~ the data source comprises a DVD player.

11. (Currently Amended) The local network of claim 1, where~~in~~ at least one data sink for the data transmitted from the data source via the data line comprises a buffer for the intermediate storage of the received data, where an ~~whose~~ intermediate storage time of the data sink buffer is ~~can be~~ adjusted as a function of a control signal transmitted from the data source via the data line.

12. (Currently Amended) The local network of claim 2, where~~in~~ the data source further comprises:

a control unit, connected to the audio buffer, the video buffer, and the other data buffer, that specifies and controls the adjustable intermediate storage time of the audio, video and other buffers.

13. (Currently Amended) A vehicle-hosted local network comprising:

_____-a subscriber data source that transmits ~~in parallel~~ audio data and compressed video data to respective subscriber data sinks on the network, where the subscriber data source includes a demultiplexer that separates compressed audio data and compressed video data contained in one compressed source signal and a pre-processing circuit that processes in parallel the separated audio data and the separated video data to provide the audio data and the compressed video data that is transmitted to the respective subscriber data sinks on the network.

14. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-hosted local network of claim 13, where~~in~~ the subscriber data source comprises:

a device that generates the ~~a~~ compressed source signal ~~including compressed audio data and compressed video data; and~~

~~a pre-processing circuit configured to parallel process the compressed audio data and the compressed video data~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-hosted local network of claim 13, where~~in~~ the pre-processing circuit comprises:

a demultiplexer that separates the compressed audio data and the compressed video data contained in the compressed source signal;

an audio data processing path that decodes the compressed audio data into an uncompressed format and generates decoded audio data in response to control instructions;

a video data processing path that recodes the compressed video data to reduce the quantity of video data, and generates recoded video data in response to control instructions; and

a bus interface that combines the decoded audio data and the recoded video data into component picture groups for parallel transmission over the local network to their respective data sinks.

16. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-hosted local network of claim 15, where~~in~~ the audio data processing path comprises:

a bit stream decoder for decoding the separated compressed audio data, and for converting the audio data into an uncompressed format; and

an audio buffer for storing the separated audio data for an intermediate time determined by at least one of the control instructions.

17. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-hosted local network of claim 15, where~~in~~ the video data processing path comprises:

a bit rate converter for recoding the compressed video data to reduce the quantity of video data; and

a video buffer for storing the separated video data for a time determined by at least one of the control instructions.

18. (Currently Amended) The vehicle-hosted local network of claim 13, where~~in~~ the subscriber data source comprises:

a device that generates the~~a~~ compressed source signal including compressed audio data and compressed video data; and where the

~~a~~ pre-processing circuit ~~configured to~~ separately processes the compressed audio data and the compressed video data to generate uncompressed audio data and a reduced quantity of compressed video data~~, wherein time differences in the separate processing of correlated audio data and video data is minimized~~.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for pre-processing a compressed signal generated by equipment for transmitting audio and video data over a local network implemented in a vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:

a) separating compressed audio and compressed video data contained in the compressed signal by demultiplexing the compressed signal; and

b) parallel processing the compressed audio data and the compressed video data to generate uncompressed audio data and compressed video data that is correlated in time for

subsequent transmission~~such that time differences in the reproduction of correlated audio data and video data are minimized~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, where~~in~~ the ~~said~~ step of parallel processing comprises the steps of:

decoding the compressed audio data into an uncompressed format;

recoding the compressed video data to reduce the quantity of video data; and

combining the decoded audio data and the recoded video data into component picture groups for parallel transmission over the local network to their respective data sinks.